



**Seattle
Public
Utilities**

Taylor Creek Culvert Replacement Project

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the goal of the Taylor Creek project?

The goals of the Taylor Creek Culvert Replacement project are to:

- Improve the stream channel and surrounding habitat
- Improve fish passage in the creek
- Replace a culvert under Rainier Avenue South
- Address storm-related flooding to the extent feasible
- Provide public access to a new natural area and Lake Washington north of Rainier Avenue South
- Construct corridor and pedestrian safety improvements on Rainier Avenue South in coordination with the Seattle Department of Transportation
- Improve two outfalls in Deadhorse Canyon to help prevent landslides
- Improve stability of the pedestrian trail in Deadhorse Canyon and the existing sewer line underneath it

2. Why is Seattle Public Utilities doing a creek project?

Seattle Public Utilities is responsible for managing stormwater in the right of way. In southeast Seattle, stormwater collects from the roadways and drains to Taylor Creek. Heavy storms and fast-moving water erode the natural creek, impacting habitat, fish and people. This project will restore the natural creek and minimize erosion in the future.

3. If SPU is restoring habitat, why are the public allowed access?

SPU heard from many community members that they want more public access to Lake Washington, which is currently limited in southeast Seattle. Additionally, we want the community to understand the importance of restoration work like this project and how urbanization and human impacts have caused the problems that we're repairing. Allowing public viewing of the creek provides opportunities for education and helps children develop an appreciation for environmental stewardship.

4. How will you keep illegal activities out of the natural area?

We have heard many concerns from the neighbors regarding safety and public access at the new natural area. Because of this, we've been working hand-in-hand with the Seattle Police Department throughout the project. The project team worked with the Seattle Police Department (SPD) during early planning to analyze if the project could have a potential effect on public safety. SPD analyzed the possibility of several public safety issues based on the early project proposal in July 2013. The report evaluated the likelihood of drug dealing, prostitution, vandalism, graffiti, urban camping, nuisance activities (fireworks, loud music, littering, public drinking, etc.), property crime, illegal dumping and person-to-person crimes. The SPD report concluded that "In general, many of the factors that lead to crime and nuisance activities in a public space and the adjacent community will not be created at Taylor Creek" due to:

- Its small size
- Lack of parking/vehicle access
- Its lack of reputation for illicit behaviors

- Lack of park amenities (bathrooms, benches, structures)
- Activation of the site encouraging positive user groups to use the space for education and discouraging negative user groups
- Site design elements to incorporate crime prevention through environmental design (clear sightlines, restricted vehicle access, not creating structures that could be easily vandalized)

A link to the [full report from SPD is online](#) on the project website.

5. What do the pedestrian safety improvements entail?

We are working with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to improve pedestrian safety on Rainier Avenue South. SDOT is formalizing the intersection of Cornell Avenue South and Rainier Avenue South to make it a 90-degree turn. This will force turning vehicles to slow down near the intersection. Additionally, we're formalizing the western crosswalk across Rainier Avenue South at the intersection and shortening the crossing distance by bulbing out the sidewalk on the northside. The crosswalk will include a pedestrian refuge in the center lane. These pedestrian safety improvements will provide better connectivity between Deadhorse Canyon, Lakeridge Playfield and the new natural area.

6. Can I launch my Kayak (or Canoe) from the beach?

The natural area is being designed with habitat and education as the goals; therefore, it focuses on those goals for the gravelly beach. Beer Sheva Park, 1.5 mi to the north, is a park designated for use of small non-motorized watercraft at the beach (such as kayaks or canoes) and is an ideal location for accessing Lake Washington with boats.

7. Are you adding parking at the new natural area?

No. Parking is provided at the Lakeridge Playfields. Lack of parking and vehicle access helps deter criminal activity, so we will not be adding additional parking. However, as noted in question 4, we will be making it easier for people to access the natural area on foot.

8. What will happen to the businesses and homes currently on the project site?

The five vacant houses north of Rainier Avenue South, currently owned by SPU, will be demolished and replaced with the new natural area. The apartment building on Rainier Avenue South, just east of the pizzeria, will also be demolished to make room for the sedimentation facility. The pizzeria will remain open.

9. What is the sedimentation facility? What will it look like?

The sedimentation facility will look like a wide spot in a natural creek. When the creek flows through Deadhorse Canyon, it can pick up small cobbles and gravels. When the creek reaches the sedimentation facility, those items will settle out of the water, and keep them from building up and creating a fish passage barrier downstream at the mouth of the creek. This will help the creek remain passable for salmon.

10. Who will maintain the new natural area after construction?

After construction, the new natural area will be owned and maintained by Seattle Parks and Recreation as an extension of Lakeridge Park. However, SPU will maintain the creek and the sedimentation facility to make sure they are functioning as designed.

11. When will construction start?

Construction is currently scheduled to begin as early as 2021 and will last up to two years. However, the schedule may change depending on how long it takes the project to secure necessary permits.

12. Will Rainier Avenue South be open during construction?

Yes, two-way traffic will be maintained on Rainier Avenue South, but may be detoured from side to side to permit construction to progress.